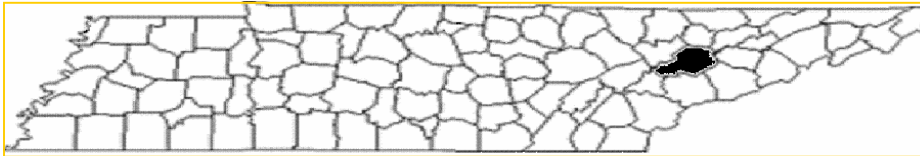


The Status of Women in Knox County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN KNOX COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	30.80	13
Women's Annual Earnings	\$25,140	8
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	70.3%	60
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	46.3%	12
Female Unemployment Rate	4.9%	21
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	26.9%	53
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	33.25	16
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	23.1%	39
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	26.2%	3
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	82.2%	3
Female High School Dropout Rate	8.6%	66
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	91.0%	58
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	13.4%	20
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	10.1%	57
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	28.0	20

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Knox County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Based on median annual earnings, a woman in Knox County earns \$10,615 less than a man in the same fiscal year. Though women's earnings in the county (\$25,140) are high, ranking 8th among counties, the wage gap (70.3%) ranks Knox 60th among counties.
- ◇ The female unemployment rate is only 0.1% higher than the countywide unemployment rate (4.8%).
- ◇ 26.9% of employed women in Knox County work in managerial or professional occupations, a lower percentage than that of the county overall (36.7%).

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Knox ranks third among counties with 82.2% of women having earned a high school diploma or the equivalent. 82.5% of all county residents have a high school degree. The percentage of all Tennesseans with a high school diploma is only 75.9%.
- ◇ 26.2% of women in Knox County have a four-year college degree and 29.0% of all county residents have such a degree. Though both percentages are significantly higher than the rate of all Tennesseans who have a bachelor's degree or better (19.6%), a higher percent of men than of women have a four-year degree in Knox County.
- ◇ There are 8 four-year colleges, 4 two-year colleges, and 4 technical institutes in Knox or neighboring counties. In the Knoxville area alone there are 39 private or parochial schools and 20 vocational/trade schools.
- ◇ Almost 18,000 women in Knox County have no form of health insurance coverage, and over 12,000 women (13.4%) in the county earn wages below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 8.4% of all families are in poverty in the county, 28.8% of families with a female householder and no husband present live below the poverty level in Knox County.
- ◇ Women account for 52.7% of eligible voters in Knox County, and only 4 out of 28 elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

KNOX

		Knox County	Rank of Knox County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$25,140	8	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	70.3%	60	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	46.3%	12	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	4.9%	21	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	26.9%	53	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	23.1%	39	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	26.2%	3	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	82.2%	3	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	8.6%	66	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	91.0%	58	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	13.4%	20	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	10.1%	57	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	28.0	20	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Knox County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties